

REST LAKE DAM COMMITTEE
MANITOWISH WATERS, WI 54545

Mr. Jim Kreitlow
Water Program Supervisor
Dept. of Natural Resources
Northern Region Headquarters
107 Sutliff Ave.
Rhinelander, WI 54501-3349

Dear Jim:

As you may know, in addition to the working group you have been meeting with, a committee representing the Manitowish Waters Alliance, Chamber of Commerce, Lakes Association, Town Board and Friends of the Manitowish River has been meeting as the Rest Lake Dam Committee.

Our reason for meeting is to discuss how we, as a group will be best able to review and react to any changes sought by the DNR in the operation of the dam. We realize that many studies have to be considered before you can present and we, the RLDC, can react to the information you present to us.

Educating our working groups and our committee is the most important part of the process of the Rest Lake Dam review. As the working group, the committee and the DNR continue this educational process, we would like to devote our total attention to the process, and not worry about whether the DNR will initiate any actions before the review is completed. We are entrusted by our constituency to make sure nothing is done to change the operation of the dam before all the studies are completed.

We believe your first two meetings have been informative as to the history of the Manitowish River and Turtle Flambeau Flowage. The presentation by Rob Olson on the operation of the dam was also very enlightening.

Our understanding of the DNR's concern about the way the dam has been operated in the past and is being operated at the present time is the seasonal impact it is having on water flow down stream, which in turn is impacting the ecology, in particular sturgeon reproduction.

Our concern if any changes are made are: 1) What impact changing the draw down will have on the Chain of Lakes above the dam, and 2) What impact changing the flows will have on the River below the dam.

As representatives of both upstream and downstream interests, we need to provide both groups with as complete and accurate information as possible. To that end we request that the following items be addressed in writing.

1. What are the legal procedures that have to be followed to change the operation of the dam?
2. What will be the scope and time frame of the study the DNR is going to do?

3. How will the information derived from the study be disseminated to the public?
4. How and when will the public be allowed to have input into the process?
5. At the present time does the DNR have any parameters established within which it might arrive at a final outcome?
6. At what specific level in the DNR will the final decision be made?

All of us are aware of the vast amount of negative publicity that has been generated by the media, interest groups and individuals over the past few years that make it seem like the DNR and citizens of Northern Wisconsin are constantly at odds with each other. We think that this process we are beginning puts us in a unique position to show that we can work together to make changes in a measured and rational way. We must establish an element of trust and openness that we can convey to the public.

We think it is important that the leadership of the DNR in Madison know that this is the way we want to go with this issue. To that end we would like you to convey our position to them. At some point during the study period we would like to meet with someone in the leadership to convey to them our sincerity.

As soon as we receive your response to our letter, we would like to set up a meeting with you and any one else from your staff that you think might be appropriate. Be assured that we are approaching this process in a positive manner. We look forward to working with you on a continuing basis as we go through this process.

Sincerely,

The Rest Lake Dam Committee

Manitowish Waters Alliance
Harland Klagos

Manitowish Waters Lakes Association
Jack King and Mary Sinkus

Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce
John McGraw

Friends of The Manitowish River
John Bates

Manitowish Waters Town Board
John Hanson